INDEX.

Of the Advantages to this Nation by this Undertaking. Page 93,95,98,99,128,130,131, 132,133

Of the hardness of the Rocks. 134,135,136, *to* 140

That the printed Constitution for the management of the Mines is composed of all the best Charters and Constitutions of the Bank of England, *and other Companies about Town, with the Form thereof at large.* 106,&c.

Reasons humbly offered for altering the punishment of Criminals condemned to die for lesser Offences, and shewing how it may be so ordered as to be a greater Terror to all Offenders, and conduce both to the Honour and Interest of the King and Kingdom. 142,&c.

Conclusion. 156

ERRATA.

THis Book being printed off in haste, the Reader is desired to amend these following particulars; *Page* 63. *read* Four Millions five hundred seventy *three* thousand, nine hundred twenty four pounds *five shillings three pence three farthings*: p. 90. *read* a considerable Dividend *every year*, and Forty pounds *per Annum* for every share.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE Present State of the MINES Of *Bwlchyr-Eskir-Hyr*;

And of the Material Proceedings of the Committee, appointed for the Management thereof.

Published for the Information and Satisfaction of the abſent-Partners, and at their Requeſt.

By Order of the Committee.

To the Abſent Partners.

Gent'

THE Repreſentation made by ſeveral Abſent Partners living in the Countrey, of the Inconveniencies that have happened for want of ſome publick Information of the State of the Mines, together with their Requeſt, that for the Satisfaction of all the Partners, an Account thereof be Printed, with the Opinion of the Committee concerning the ſame, hath been taken into Conſideration by the ſaid Committee; and tho' it was preſumed that all the Partners in theſe Mines, would either by themſelves or friends have taken an Account thereof at the Office in *Lincolns-Inn*, from the Original Letters and Entries, which they thought would have been moſt proper and ſatisfactory, and which they may have acceſs to, when they pleaſe. Yet to ſhew their reſpect to you who have repoſed ſo great a Truſt in them, and how careful they have been and ſtill are of your intereſt and ſafety, they have ordered the following Abſtract to be made from the Originals, and (being peruſed and allowed by them) to be Printed and ſent to you. By, *Gentlemen*,

Jan. 31ſt. 1699/700.

Your moſt Humble Servant,

Francis Pigott, *Sec'*

I*ſt*, IT was referred to Sir *Humphry Mackworth*, and *William Player*, of *Grays-Inn*, Eſq; (and to ſuch other of the Committee as would then be preſent) to view the Mines, and make a Report of the preſent State thereof, and of all matters relating thereto.

II*dly*, In purſuance thereof the following Letter was ſent by them to the Committee, *viz.*

Gent' June 20th, 1699.

On Wedneſday *the Seventh of this Inſtant* June, *Mr.* Lydall, *Mr.* Leiceſter, *and Mr.* Tucker, (*a Perſon Experienced in Mineral Works*) *came with us into* Cardiganſhire, *and having ſeveral times viewed the Mines, and Examined the Workmen, we cannot find but Mr.* Waller *has given us a very fair and juſt Account of the Mines.*

We

We have been every Day on Horſe-back viewing ſome place or other ever ſince we met, and therefore muſt deſire more time to make a particular Report, but we have both taken Minutes of the Matter of Fact, and ſet our Hands to them; and as ſoon as conveniently we can, our Report ſhall be ſent you at Large, By, Gent'

Your moſt Humble Servants,

H. Mackworth,
Will. Player.

Gent'

We have peruſed the above-written Letter, and ſeveral times viewed the Mines of Bwlchyr-Eskir-Hyr, *and late of Sir* Carbery Pryſe, *and Examined the Work-men, and do entirely concur in Opinion with Sir* Humphry Mackworth *and Mr.* Player, *and that the ſaid Mines will turn to a very great Account.*

Francis Leiceſter,
Robert Lydall,
Jonathan Tucker.

Note, *Thoſe Gentlemen are all well skill'd in the Art of Mining, and particularly Mr.* Tucker, *who is Manager of Mr.* Player's *Mineral Works near* Briſtol.

III*dly*, The Report at Large from Sir *Humphry Mackworth* and Mr. *Player*, was ſent up to the Committee the Third day of *July* laſt, which being too long to be inſerted, the Adventurers are referred to the Original in the Office, but (amongſt other things) it is therein ſet forth:

1. That upon Examination of ſeveral Perſons that actually wrought in the Shafts formerly ſunk in the ſaid Mines, it appeared that the ſeveral Veins proved quick, and were left in ſuch manner as hath formerly been Repreſented by Mr. *Waller*, to the Mine-Adventurers: And though they could not have a view in the deep Shafts, having much Water in them; yet the Water being drawn out in the Shallow Croſs-cuts and Shafts, on purpoſe to give them a view of the Veins, they ſaw Oar raiſed in four ſeveral Veins at the day, near the Surface of the Ground, which Oar lay in Ribs, the leaſt of which was Nine Inches broad, and ſome of a Foot broad, or thereabouts.

Note, The great Vein was but one Foot thick in Oar at the Surface.

2. That they believe Mr. *Waller*'s Map and State of the Mines then ſent up, was very exact, the Veins, Adits and Levels being meaſured in the preſence of the ſaid Mr. *Tucker*, and that the works were then carry'd on in ſeveral croſs Drifts Night and Day.

3. They give an Account of the Buildings at *Tallybout*, and on the Mountain, and of the Stores, and what Inſtructions they had left with Mr. *Simon Pryſe*, for the Method of his Accounts, for carriage of the Oar raiſed to the Water-ſide, and to Mr. *Waller* for Expediting the Levels, Croſs-drifts and Shafts; for the Speedy raiſing of Oar; which was approved and Confirmed.

4. They deliver their Opinion by the Advice of the ſaid Artiſts, that for the ſpeedy Smelting and Refining the Oar raiſed; and ſo making a quick Return of Profit, *Neath*, in *Glamorganſhire* ſeemed at preſent the moſt proper Place; where there was a large Smelting-houſe, One hundred thirty five Foot in length, and Thirty Two Foot in breadth, and all Buildings, Stacks, Furnaces, with a large Water-wheel, *Sturbridge* Clay, Coal, and all other Materials in readineſs, which could not be provided in *Cardiganſhire* in a long time; and that Sir *Humphry Mackworth* was then making a Key at *Neath-Bank*, for the more convenient Loading and Unloading of Veſſels, where Coal is at no time wanting, if Sir *Humphry Mackworth*'s Coals ſhould fail.

5. That about the latter end of *September* and beginning of *October*, they had Viſited the Mines a Second time, and found (amongſt other things) that in the Level Vein there appeared ſome ſtrings of Oar; That in one of the Croſs-

drifts,

drifts, in the East-Level, not above Eight yards deep, towards the great Vein, they crossed a Vein which had some Lead Oar mixed with Vein-Stone, and also a settled Vein, which by the greenish Colour of it seemed to be the Copper-Vein, which they judged to be of no great Value in that place so near the Surface, but that it had a very promising Aspect, when it took more Ground upon it.

That about Fourteen Yards South of the Bog vein, there was a new Cross-cut made, wherein there was Oar raised in Two distinct places, but whether these would prove profitable Veins was yet uncertain; That in order to Land Oar as soon as may be, Mr. *Waller* was carrying on a Shallow Level to the Bog-Vein.

6. That Houses for Workmen were Erected to contain near a Hundred Men, and that the Country People brought Provisions to the Mountain every *Saturday*, to the great advantage of the Neighbours and Miners.

7. That since *June* last, Sir *Humphry Mackworth* had at the North-end of the Smelting-House above-mentioned, Erected another pile of Building Sixty Foot in length, and Twenty Eight Foot in breadth; and Stacks or Chimneys for Six or Seven Refining Furnaces; and was, below that, Erecting a Red-Lead Mill with Store-houses convenient to them.

8. That Sir *Humphry Mackworth* had also since that time made a Cut or Canal from *Neath*-River, of about Eighteen or Twenty Foot wide, and about Three Hundred Yards in length, in which Trows and small Vessels with Thirty Tun might come up within Four Hundred Yards of the Smelting and Refining Houses; and that a strong Crane was also Erected, and the Partners Goods unloaded there, and that this Cut may be carried one or two Hundred Yards nearer, which will much shorten Land-Carriage, the said Works being near a Mile from *Neath-Key*.

Note, *That Mr.* Richard Curtis, *who is a considerable Partner, and who went down to the Mines for his own Satisfaction, and viewed and measured the Works under Ground, and the Buildings in* Glamorganshire, *gives a very good Character thereof, and exactly agrees with the Account above-mentioned, which is also confirmed by the Accomptant to the Company, who spent some time below in* Cardiganshire *and at* Neath, *in taking an Exact Particular thereof.*

IV*thly*, Sir *Humphry Mackworth* hath Erected all those large Buildings and Conveniencies at his own proper Charge, without receiving one Penny from the Publick Stock on that Account: And at the Request of the Committee, hath let the Company have the Use and Benefit of them; they giving to the said Sir *Humphry Mackworth* (after full Tryal had thereof) such consideration for the use of the same as they shall think fit: And upon this Occasion the Committee think themselves obliged to declare, That the said Sir *Humphry* Mackworth hath upon this and all other Occasions, dealt very justly and honourably by all the Partners concerned.

V*thly*, Mr. *Lydall*, Chief Operator to the Company, having viewed all places convenient for Erecting Smelting-Houses, both in *Cardiganshire* near to Oar, and in *Glamorganshire* near to Coal, (where the Smelting-Houses are appointed to be built by the Settlement of the Mine-Adventure, to the intent that the same vessels may carry Coal to Oar, and Oar to Coal) after mature Deliberation had thereupon, hath given a particular Account of the conveniencies and inconveniencies of each place, whereby it appears, that till greater quantities of Oar are raised, Carriage grown difficult, and more, Housing is wanting, that *Neath* is the cheapest place of Smelting and Refining all the Oar, whereby the Duty on Coal is saved, and also the charge of keeping another set of Stewards, Smelters and Refiners in *Cardiganshire*: and in the mean while they have more time to Deliberate in the Choice of, and to Contract for, the most proper place for Building in that County.

VI*thly*, As to the Profit of this Undertaking, many Experiments have been made in large Quantities; of the Richneſs of the ſeveral ſorts of Oar in theſe Veins, and it thereby appears, That every Tun of Oar (one with another) yields at this time, over and above all manner of charges, a clear profit of five pounds *per* Tun and upwards.

VII*ly*, The Principal Stock is not really leſſened in all this time above Two thouſand three hundred Pounds Twelve Shillings and Four pence; the uſe of Sir *Humphry Mackworth*'s Smelting and Refining Furnaces, having for the preſent ſaved the Company a great Expence that way.

VIII*thly*, As to the keeping the Accounts they are in exact Form and Method of Merchants Accounts.

IX*thly*, The Committee have, by ſeveral Letters from the Officers, received an Account,

Firſt, That a Pitt or Shaft was begun on a Vein, five yards South of the great Vein, where the Miners met with a Spark of Oar (as they Term it) near a Tun weight, which (they ſay) ſhewed the Pride of the Vein, being within two Yards of the Surface of the Ground. That ſome time after they Sunk to the Oar, for the raiſing of which Mr. *Waller* did ſet a Bargain to the Miners, at 7*s*. 6*d*. *per* Tun; but before they could raiſe any Quantity, being ſo near the Shafts in the great Vein, the Water from them broke in upon the Workmen, and water'd them out.

Note, *Sir* Thomas Mackworth *(who alſo confirms the Report above ſet forth) went down in this Shaft, and (he ſays) that he ſaw the Oar therein above Two Foot wide, and not above Five or Six Yards deep from the Surface.*

Secondly, That in one of the Croſs-drifts, the Workmen met with Strings of rich Copper Oar, that croſſed the firm ſides, which gave hopes (that the Copper-Vein, (which is near two Yards wide) would prove quick and gathered to a rich Body of Oar in that Drift, when once it came up to the Vein.

Thirdly, That in *Curtis-Drift* the Miners had cut into the Bog-Vein, which is Four Foot wide betwixt the firm Sides; And that Mr. *Waller* had ſet on ſeveral Setts of Workmen to ſink Shafts upon that Drift.

Fourthly, That he had Finiſhed thoſe Shafts, and was raiſing Oar there; and that the Oar in the ſaid Vein did ſet well, and widen downwards, as it took more Ground upon it.

Fifthly, He ſtill expreſſes his great Opinion of the Mines, and complains of their being too quick upon him for raiſing Oar, ſince in his Eſſay on the value of the Mines, he did inſiſt upon a Years time to ſet the Works in Order, which will not be ended till the latter end of *May* next; and ſince the Rocks have proved much harder than he expected; but yet by the time propoſed he doubts not but to be raiſing of Oar in the great Vein; and in the mean time hopes he ſhall pleaſe them in raiſing Oar in the Bog-vein above mentioned, as ſoon as he can ſet that place in order, and make room for a number of Men to be employ'd there.

Sixthly, They continue the Smelting and refining at *Neath* with great care and diligence, and for the time have made there a conſiderable quantity of Silver, Lead, and Lytharge.

Upon the whole Matter, as the Committee cannot pretend to any abſolute certainty in matters of this Nature, ſo they have no reaſon to have a different Opinion of the Mines from what they had at firſt; but on the contrary do believe and hope that they are all engaged in a very Profitable Undertaking.

And as the beſt Demonſtration of the Sincerity of this their Opinion, they think fit alſo to declare, That neither his Grace the Duke of *Leeds*, Sir *Tho. Mackworth*, Sir *H. Mackworth*, Mr. *Waller*, nor any one of the Committee, have ſold out any part of their Principal Money Adventured, or Shares ariſing from the ſame; but on the contrary many of them have lately Purchaſed a conſiderable Number of Blanks and Shares, which in the whole (amongſt them all) amounts to the Value of 8755 *l*. in Blanck-Tickets, and alſo 242 Shares.

By Order of the Committee.

Francis Pigot, Sec'

A *Familiar Diſcourſe,* OR DIALOGUE,

BETWEEN

Two Noble Lords, a Learned Doctor of Divinity, and an Eminent Merchant of *London*, concerning the *Mine-Adventure.*

Lord A. WHat Paper is this? *An Abſtract of the preſent ſtate of the Mines!* I thought that Undertaking had been given for loſt.

Lord B. Really ſo did I, my Lord—— Pray what account does that Paper pretend to give of it?